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## **Construction of new fish collector at Swift Reservoir will cause restrictions, some closures**

COUGAR, Wash. — PacifiCorp is asking campers and visitors fishing on Swift Reservoir to take extra safety precautions during a two-year long construction project that will benefit anadromous fish on the Lewis River.

Work is already underway on Swift Reservoir and at Swift Forest Camp, both operated by PacifiCorp. The camp boat ramp is open, but campers are asked to be cautious while parts of the camp and boat ramp areas are being used as staging areas for the construction project. Visitors are asked to stay away from clearly posted areas and follow the parking rules displayed on site. At times, heavy equipment will be moving through the campground. Even though these large loads will be escorted by spotters, campers are asked to make sure children and pets are safe.

Signs are posted along the route to Swift as well as in the campground, which opens April 29 in advance of the trout season opener on April 30. Updated information also will be available at the camp's check-in booth.

All normally accessible areas will be open to visitors throughout opening day weekend. After April 30, construction work will require some closures. An area of particular concern will be the public access area on the dam. Normally, visitors are able to park off the road to the dam and walk through a pedestrian gate to fish the dam area. Specific information on closures and restrictions will be posted based on work being done, but at some points this foot access to the dam will be closed temporarily. Boaters will need to keep clear of the active construction area, which lies on the southern end of the dam.

Information on current restrictions and closures will be available from a special phone message at 503-813-6666 and on PacifiCorp's recreation website, [pacificorp.com/about/or/washington.html](http://pacificorp.com/about/or/washington.html).

"Safety for visitors to Swift is our main priority," said Joe LaMere, PacifiCorp's Lewis River production manager. "We know thousands of people enjoy camping, fishing and boating at Swift every year. This construction project, a key element in reintroducing salmon and steelhead to the upper reaches of the Lewis River system, is necessary at this time, but with it comes an inevitable

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level of disruption. With awareness and safety always in mind, we can all coexist over the next two years. People can still enjoy the recreation activities and we will do what we need to do for migrating fish.”

The fish passage projects are part of PacifiCorp’s and Cowlitz County PUD’s Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license commitments to operate the Lewis River Hydroelectric Projects. Work on the fish collection facility should be concluded by the end of 2012.

**About the project**

The Swift Reservoir Fish Facility will create flow conditions to attract out-migrating fish; typically juvenile salmon and steelhead, and adult steelhead. Once the fish are collected, they will be sorted at the facility for transport to the lower Lewis River downstream of Merwin Dam. The Swift Reservoir Fish Facility will be a floating structure, approximately 170 feet long and 60 feet wide. It will have a pumping capacity of approximately 600 cubic feet per second for fish attraction. The facility will also include features to exclude fish from the generating turbines and to manage reservoir debris.

**About PacifiCorp**

PacifiCorp is one of the lowest-cost electricity producers in the United States, serving more than 1.7 million customers in the West. PacifiCorp operates as Pacific Power in Oregon, Washington and California, and as Rocky Mountain Power in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho. With a generating capability of more than 10,620 megawatts from coal, hydro, gas-fired combustion turbines and renewable wind and geothermal power, the company works to meet growing energy demand while protecting and enhancing the environment.

**About Cowlitz PUD**

Cowlitz PUD serves 48,200 electric customers in Cowlitz County, Wash. It owns the 70-megawatt Swift No. 2 Hydroelectric Project on the North Fork of the Lewis River near Cougar, Wash., and is a co-developer/owner of the 205-megawatt White Creek Wind Project and 100-megawatt Harvest Wind Project in the Columbia River Gorge near Roosevelt, Wash.